

Admission to school for children and young people with Statements of Special Educational Needs

Opportunities for a mainstream education.

Haringey is committed to increasing the opportunities for pupils with SEN to experience a mainstream education with their peers. Section 316 of the 1996 Education Act gives parents the right to a mainstream education for their child provided that it would not be incompatible with the efficient education of other pupils with whom he or she would be educated. If parents prefer a maintained special school the Local Authority no longer has a duty to secure a mainstream education, but parents do not have the right to veto a mainstream placement.

Meeting parental preferences

The Local Authority also has a duty under Schedule 27 to place a child at the maintained school preferred by his or her parent(s) provided that the placement is suitable to meet the child's needs and is not incompatible with the efficient education of other pupils or the efficient use of resources.

The requirement to consult schools.

The Local Authority must consult the school preferred by the parents prior to naming it in a statement. In the case of out-borough schools the Local Authority must also consult the other Local Authority.

Supporting local schools.

The Local Authority's policy is to meet needs within its own provision whenever these can be appropriately met. A pupil with a statement naming mainstream school provision can attend a school outside the Borough if that is the parents' preference and a place has been offered, although transport would not be provided. In the case of special schools or units, the Authority would only agree to the parents' preference for an out-borough school if the child's needs could not be met within the Borough, since it would not normally be an efficient use of the Local Authority's resources to fund the extra cost.

Choosing an independent school

Parents can make representations for a placement in an independent school but the Local Authority has no duty to name this in the statement. The Local Authority must however be able to offer suitable alternative provision in the maintained sector, unless the parents have opted to fund the independent school at their own expense. If the Local Authority can name a suitable maintained school it would generally represent an unreasonable use of public expenditure to fund an independent school.

Arrangements for the admission to reception classes of children with statements of special educational needs

(The reception class is the first formal year of schooling, children usually start in this class at the start of the academic year – 1st September to 31st August – during which they have their fifth birthday)

Admissions are managed by the Special Educational Needs Panel.

Parents/carers are requested to express a preference for a particular school for their child and to send their application form to the Special Needs Officer (SNO) with responsibility for Reception admissions. (The SNO can be contacted at: Central SEN Services, 48 Station Road, London, N22 7TY. Tel: 020 8489 3877). The SNO will

forward a copy of the child's annual review and proposed statement to the relevant primary school(s). The Special Educational Needs Panel, on behalf of the Local Authority, manages the admission arrangements for pupils with statements and makes the final decision about which school to name in the statement.

Meeting parental preferences

The Local Authority has a duty to name the school preferred by the parents provided that it can meet the child's needs and would not result in an inefficient education for other children or an inefficient use of resources. At some schools it could result in an inefficient education for others if a particular school were to be named in a high number of statements.

When can a parent appeal against a decision?

The parents of pupils with statements do **not** have the right to appeal to a local independent appeal committee under the Education Act 1996 if a place is not offered. Their right of appeal is to the Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal against the school named in the amended statement. The right of appeal is notified to the parents by the SNO when the final amended statement is issued.

Arrangements for the transfer of children from Primary to Secondary School.

Year 5 Annual Review to be held during the summer term.

Annual reviews of the Year 5 pupils with statements of special educational needs must be held by primary schools in the summer term of Year 5. This is to ensure that there is time for the Special Needs Team to formally seek parental preferences, consult secondary schools and issue final amended statements by the statutory 15 February deadline

Application forms are sent out at the start of Year 6.

Parents should be asked about their secondary school preferences at the Year 5 annual review meeting. The Special Needs Officer (SNO) with responsibility for secondary transfer will send an application form early in the autumn term which formally seeks parental preferences. (The SNO can be contacted at: Central SEN Services, 48 Station Road, London, N22 7TY. Tel: 020 8489 3877).

Consulting secondary schools on parental preferences.

The SNO will forward a copy of the child's annual review and current statement to the relevant secondary school(s). The Secondary Transfer Panel, comprising Secondary Headteachers and Local Authority officers and professionals makes the final decision about which school to name in the statement. The Children's Service has a duty to name the school preferred by the parents provided that it can meet the child's needs and would not result in an inefficient education for other children or an inefficient use of resources. At some schools it could result in an inefficient education for others if a particular school were to be named in a high number of statements.

Parental right of appeal.

The parents of pupils with statements do **not** have the right to appeal to a local independent appeal committee under the Education Act 1996 if a place is not offered. Their right of appeal is to the Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal against the school named in the amended statement. The right of appeal is notified to the parents by the SNO when the final amended statement is issued.